Red-Tapism affects army preparedness

†5508. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Dhanabhav se nahin, Lal pheetashahi se prabhaavit hai sainya taiyari; Malik" as published in Dainik Jagaran of 17th February, 2000;

(b) whether Government have prepared any scheme to avoid the loss to army because of procedure and delay in this process instead of lack of fund; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Defence Procurement Procedure was formulated and prescribed in 1992 by the Government. The procedure is comprehensive and includes measures to ensure that a conclusive and objective view is taken will selecting a weapon/weapon system and that extraneous factors do not influence the decision. The procedure is designed for procuring equipment against Qualitative Requirements specified, approved and confirmed by the user, through a system of trials and evaluation by the Services and through a process of competitive tendering to ensure cost advantages. Government is fully alive to the needs of the country's defence preparedness and all steps are being taken to streamline the procurement process and to minimise the time taken in decision making. The Government have considered the comments made in certain quarters that Defence Procurement Procedures are coming in the way of time bound acquisition by the Armed Forces. In order to further streamline the procedure, a committee has been set up under Chairmanship of Vice Chief of Army Staff to examine the existing Defence Procurement Procedure in its entirety with a view to suggest specific measures for speedier processing of procurement cases.

Amount due for IAF Aircrafts

5509. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item titled "Overdue

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

recovery" for using the aircrafts for non- official purposes by the four former Prime Ministers as reported in the 'Hindustan Times', dated the 8th February, 2000;

(b) whether Government have since initiated legal action against them; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Appropriate action as per law is being taken for recovery of the dues.

Policy document on Defence strategy

5510 SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to launch a policy documents for the upgradation of the defence strategy of India;

(b) if so, the salient features of this policy document;

(c) whether Government are also going to lay down the detailed procedure for the procurement of defence equipment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) While there is no specific proposal before the Government for launching any document for upgradation of defence strategy of India, Government continually monitor all factors impinging upon our national security at various levels including National Security Council and its other substructures *viz.* the Strategic Policy Group (SPG) and National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) as also the Cabinet Committee on Security/Cabinet. Further a Group of Ministers consisting of Home Minister, Defence Minister, External Affairs Minister and Finance Minister has been set up to review the National Security system in its entirety.

(c) and (d) A detailed Defence Procurement Procedure has been laid down by the Government in 1992. Further through periodical in-house examination/review, the Government continuously endeavours to improve defence procurement procedures to ensure that these provide-requisite flexibility and contribute to achieving higher levels of efficiency,